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# U.S. Seen Undecided On Visa for Burchett

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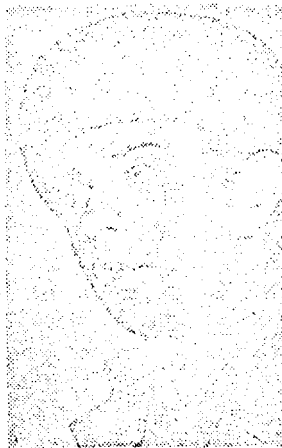
UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Nov. 29 — The State Department was reported to be still debating today whether to grant a visa to Wilfred Burchett, an Australian-born journalist frequently in Hanoi who now seeks to cover the United Nations.

Burchett has asked to come to the U.N. on a Cuban passport as the representative of a left-wing Paris monthly magazine. Some informed sources think, however, that his real purpose may be to establish contact with putative officials of the Nixon Administration on behalf of North Vietnam.

It is suggested that he may have been encouraged by Ambassador Averell Harriman or other members of the American negotiating team in Paris. This belief has been heightened by reports that at one stage officials in Washington overruled a lower-level recommendation against granting the visa.

Burchett was quoted by the Canadian Press as having said in an interview in Montreal Thursday that he envisaged a possible compromise settlement in Vietnam so long as the American presence will be ended.

This compromise would involve the neutrality of both Vietnams and the continued division of the country. But what the West regarded as its legitimate interests in the area would not be threatened.



WILFRED BURCHETT  
... seeks U.S. visa

he was reported as emphasizing.

Speculation here holds that Burchett may attempt to be a contact man for the Vietnamese National Liberation Front, or Vietcong. Last year the NLF broached to Secretary General U Thant the possibility of sending a representative to the U.N.

What has complicated matters is the fact that Burchett has been billed in an advertisement in the National Guardian as a speaker, along with H. Rap Brown and others, at an anti-Vietnam war rally in Lower Manhattan on Dec. 5.

This would plainly violate the terms of a restricted visa. Burchett was scheduled to speak today at a similar rally in Montreal.

His official request to the U.N. is to cover the organization for the Paris magazine L'Evenement for two weeks in early December. Some authorities question, however, whether L'Evenement is in a financial position to pay the expenses of a special correspondent here.

Ordinarily when the United Nations decides to accept a bona fide correspondent, the United States automatically grants a visa—although nationals of countries with which the U.S. has no diplomatic relations sometimes are restricted to part of Manhattan.

In recent years Burchett is understood to have used Phnom Penh, Cambodia, as his headquarters. He has often journeyed to Hanoi to report statements by high North Vietnamese officials.

Under terms of the United States headquarters agreement with the United Nations, applications to the U.N. for accreditation as correspondents are relayed to the U.S. for comment within 21 days of receipt. The U.N. then decides whether to issue the accreditation.

In practice, a serious objection by the U.S. is usually sufficient to block accreditation.

Burchett's intentions became known on Nov. 14 when he applied to the U.N. Information Center in Paris. He subsequently applied for an American visa at the U.S. Embassy there.